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(54) Title: 3,4-DIARYLCHROMANS FOR TREATMENT OF DERMATITIS

(57) Abstract

Methods and pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of dermatitis are disclosed. 3,4-diarylchromans and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts are formulated into medicaments, including oral and topical medicaments, which are administered to a patient suffering from dermatitis. The methods and compositions are particularly useful in the treatment of conditions characterized by hyperproliferation of keratinocytes, such as psoriasis.

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Methods and pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of dermatitis are disclosed. 3,4-diarylchromans and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts are formulated into medicaments, including oral and topical medicaments, which are administered to a patient suffering from dermatitis. The methods and compositions are particularly useful in the treatment of conditions characterized by hyperproliferation of keratinocytes, such as psoriasis.

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3,4-DIARYLCHROMANS FOR TREATMENT OF DERMATITIS

Background of the Invention

Dermatitis encompasses a number of conditions characterized by reddish skin lesions that can develop into scaly, thickened plaques. These lesions can arise from any of several primary causes, including contact with allergens, ultraviolet light or chemicals, systemically administered drugs, or localized trauma (irritation). The causes of certain forms of dermatitis are unknown.

Eczematous dermatitis refers to a group of conditions characterized in the initial stages by edematous, oozing plaques that often contain blisters. These lesions are prone to bacterial infection. Fluid leaks into the intercellular spaces in the epidermis, giving it a spongy appearance. Over time, oozing diminishes, and the lesions become scaly as the epidermis thickens (epidermal hyperplasia).

Of particular concern are chronic forms of dermatitis, including psoriasis and the chronic stages of 20 eczematous dermatitis. Psoriasis is characterized by round, thick, dry, reddish patches covered with silvery scales. Psoriasis may be localized or generalized, and in the latter case may become life-threatening. Psoriatic lesions show marked epidermal hyperplasia hyperproliferation of keratinocytes. The etiology of psoriasis is believed to include hereditary and autoimmune Chronic lesions of eczematous dermatitis are clinically and histologically similar to psoriatic 30 plaques.

Cellular proliferation (e.g. proliferation of keratinocytes) is regulated in part by intracellular calcium levels. Changes in intracellular calcium concentrations influence the phosphorylation of proteins, thus influencing proliferation and other cellular processes. One of the molecules that mediates the effect

of intracellular calcium levels on protein phosphorylation is calmodulin, a protein co-factor for protein kinase C.

Psoriasis is treated by the application of corticosteroids, coal tar ointments, or anthralin. These treatments are only partially effective and may merely contain, not reverse, the disease. Anthralin may cause irritation, and its safety in children and pregnant women has not been established. Corticosteroids have a number of undesirable side effects, including edema and mineral imbalances. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents are generally not effective.

There remains a need in the art for treatments for dermatitis that are effective and lack serious side effects. The present invention addresses this need and provides other, related advantages.

Disclosure of the Invention

invention is Broadly stated, the present directed to methods for treating dermatitis (including psoriasis), including the chronic stages of these by the conditions, which are characterized hyperproliferation of keratinocytes. The present invention makes use of compounds of the formula (I):

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and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R1, R4 and R5 are individually hydrogen, hydroxy,

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halo, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or tertiary amino lower alkoxy; and R2 and R3 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl.

Within one aspect, the present invention provides a method for treating eczematous dermatitis comprising administering to a patient suffering from eczematous dermatitis an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Within a related aspect, the present invention provides a method for treating psoriasis comprising administering to a patient a composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as described above.

Within another aspect, the present invention provides a method for inhibiting the proliferation of keratinocytes in a patient. Briefly, a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is administered to a patient in an amount sufficient to inhibit keratinocyte proliferation.

Yet another aspect of the present invention provides a method for inhibiting calmodulin activity in a patient comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in an amount sufficient to inhibit calmodulin activity.

These and other aspects of the invention will become evident upon reference to the following detailed description.

Detailed Description of the Invention

According to the present invention, 3,4-diarylchromans, such as centchroman (3,4-trans-2,2-

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dimethyl-3-phenyl-4-[p-(beta-pyrrolidinoethoxy)phenyl]-7-methoxy-chroman), are used for the treatment of dermatitis, including eczematous dermatitis and psoriasis. Centchroman has very low toxicity and can be administered chronically. The 3,4-diarylchromans are represented by the structure

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(I)

Within formula (I), R1, R4 and R5 individually hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or tertiary amino lower alkoxy; and R2 and R3 are individually H or a lower alkyl. As used herein, the term "lower alkyl" includes straight and branched chain alkyl radicals containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tertbutyl, n-amyl, sec-amyl, n-hexyl, 2-ethylbutyl, dimethylbutyl and the like. The term "lower alkoxy" includes straight and branched chain alkoxy radicals containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, such as methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, tert-butoxy, namyloxy, sec-amyloxy, n-hexyloxy, 2-ethyl-butoxy, 2,3dimethylbutoxy and the like. "Halo" includes chloro, fluoro, bromo and iodo. The tertiary amino radical may be a dialkylamine such as a dimethyl, diethyl, dipropyl, dibutyl or polymethyleneimine, e.g. piperidine, pyrrolidine, N-methyl piperazine or morpholine. Preferred compounds include those in which R1 is lower alkoxy; R2

and R3 are lower alkyl, especially methyl; R4 is H; and R5 is tertiary amino lower alkoxy of the polyethyleneimine type. Within particularly preferred embodiments, R1 is in the 7-position and is lower alkoxy, particularly methoxy; each of R2 and R3 is methyl, R4 is H and R5 is in the 4-position and is a tertiary amino lower alkoxy radical such as pyrrolidinoethoxy.

It is preferred to use the compounds of structure (I) in the trans configuration. These compounds may be used as recemic mixtures, or the isolated d- or l- enantiomers may be used.

A particularly preferred compound for use within the present invention is centchroman (II):

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Although only one enantiomer is shown, it will be understood that the structure II is used herein to designate the *trans* configuration of the 3- and 4-phenyl groups and that both the d- and l-enantiomers, as well as the racemic mixture, are included.

3,4-diarylchromans are prepared according to known methods, such as those disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,340,276 to Carney et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,822,287 to Bolger, and Ray et al., <u>J. Med. Chem.</u> 19:276-279, 1976, which are incorporated herein by reference. Conversion of

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the cis to the trans configuration by means of an organometallic base-catalyzed rearrangement is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,822,287. The optically active d- and l-enantiomers may be prepared as disclosed by Salman et al. in U.S. Patent No. 4,447,622 (incorporated herein by reference) by forming an optically active acid salt which is subjected to alkaline hydrolysis to produce the desired enantiomer.

Within the present invention, 3,4-diarylchromans may be prepared in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable salts, especially acid-addition salts, including salts of organic acids and mineral acids. Examples of such salts include organic acids such as formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid, pyruvic acid, oxalic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, salicylic acid and the like. Suitable inorganic acid-addition salts include salts of hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric and phosphoric acids and the like. The acid addition salts may be obtained as the direct products of compound synthesis. alternative, the free base may be dissolved in a suitable solvent containing the appropriate acid, and the salt otherwise the solvent orevaporating isolated by. separating the salt and solvent.

According to the present invention, the 3,4diarylchromans and their salts are used within human and veterinary medicine for the treatment of eczematous "Eczematous dermatitis" psoriasis. and dermatitis includes allergic contact dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, primary and photoeczematous dermatitis dermatitis. The methods of the present invention may be used to treat these conditions in their acute or chronic While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is stages. believed that the therapeutic effect of the diarylchromans is at least in part due to an antagonistic effect on calmodulin, making these compounds particularly

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effective in the chronic, hyperproliferative stages of eczematous dermatitis and psoriasis.

For use within the present invention, diarylchromans and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts. are formulated with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier a medicament for topical provide conventional administration according to Formulations may further include one or more diluents, fillers, emulsifiers, preservatives, buffers, excipients, etc. and may be provided in such forms as liquids, ointments, salves, gels, emulsions and the like. skilled in this art may formulate the compounds in an appropriate manner, and in accordance with accepted such as those disclosed in Remington's practices, 15 Pharmaceutical Sciences, 18th ed., Gennaro, ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, 1990 (which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.) Such compositions may further include one or more auxiliary substances, such as wetting agents, stabilizers, coloring, penetration enhancers, etc.

Within a preferred embodiment, pharmaceutical compositions are applied topically to skin lesions. Suitable compositions in this regard include oil-based formulations such as cintments, water-in-oil emulsions and solutions of the active agent in a volatile solvent such as an ethanol/ether mixture. Compositions of this type are applied from one to several times daily. Water-based formulations may be applied as wet dressings.

The pharmaceutical compositions may also be administered orally, preferably as tablets or capsules. Oral administration will generally take place at daily to weekly intervals.

An "effective amount" of such a pharmaceutical composition is the amount that provides a clinically significant improvement in the symptoms of the condition to be treated. In particular, it is desirable to achieve

a reduction in epidermal hyperplasia and/or keratinocyte hyperproliferation. Determination of such amounts will generally be done empirically and is within the ordinary level of skill in the art. The treatment may be adjusted as necessary to obtain the desired effects, such as by altering the concentration of active ingredient in the formulation or by varying the treatment schedule. actual amount administered will of course depend in part on the particular condition to be treated (including its extent and severity), age, weight, and general health of the patient, and other factors evident to those skilled in the art. For example, a typical formulation for topical delivery will contain from 0.01 to 10 weight percent of a 3,4-diarylchroman in a suitable vehicle, more preferably from 0.5 to 5 weight percent. The formulation will be applied to the affected skin from one to several times per day until the desired improvement is achieved.

General guidance for treatment regimens is obtained from experiments carried out in animal models of the disease of interest. For example, animal models of psoriasis include the analysis of histological alterations in adult mouse tail epidermis (Hofbauer et al, Brit. J. Dermatol. 118: 85-89, 1988; Bladon et al., Arch Dermatol. <u> 277</u>: 121-125, 1985, incorporated herein by 25 reference). In this model, anti-psoriatic activity is indicated by the induction of a granular layer and orthokeratosis in areas of scale between the hinges of the tail epidermis. Typically, a topical ointment is applied daily for seven consecutive days, then sacrificed, and tail skin is examined histologically. An additional model provided by grafting psoriatic human skin congenitally athymic (nude) mice (Krueger et al., J. Invest. Dermatol. 64:307-312, 1975, incorporated herein by reference). Such grafts have been shown to retain the characteristic histology for up to eleven weeks. the mouse tail model, the test composition is applied to

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the skin at predetermined intervals for a period of one to several weeks, at which time the animals are sacrificed and the skin grafts examined histologically. model has been disclosed by Fretland et al. (Inflammation 14: 727-739, 1990; incorporated herein by reference). Briefly, inflammation is induced in guinea pig epidermis by topically applying phorbol ester (phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate; PMA), typically at ca. 2 g/ml in acetone, to one ear and vehicle to the contralateral ear. compounds are applied concurrently with the PMA, or may be Histological analysis is performed at 96 given orally. hours after application of PMA. This model duplicates symptoms of human psoriasis, including inflammatory cell diapedesis and infiltration, high LTB4 levels and epidermal proliferation.

Calmodulin activity is conveniently assayed by measuring the activity of calmodulin-dependent enzymes. See, for example, Blumenthal et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm. 156: 860-865, 1988, which is incorporated herein by reference. Calmodulin-dependent enzymes include phosphorylase kinase, brain multifunctional calmodulindependent protein kinase and calmodulin-dependent protein phosphatase (calcineurin). Phosphorylase kinase activity is determined by measuring rates of 32p incorporation into phosphorylase b using a filter paper assay (Roskoski, Methods Enzymol. 99: 3-6, 1983, incorporated herein by reference). A reaction mixture containing 50 mM magnesium acetate, 200 μ M CaCl₂, 5 mg/ml phosphorylase b, 0.9 μ g/ml skeletal muscle phosphorylase kinase, calmodulin, and the test compound are combined. The mixture is incubated at 30°C for five minutes, and the reaction is initiated by the addition of $[\gamma^{-32}P]$ ATP. Phosphatase activity is assayed by determining rates of 32pi release from a synthetic phosphopeptide corresponding to residues 81-99 of bovine cardiac cAMP-dependent protein kinase regulatory subunit. The reaction mixture contains 50 mM MOPS

morpholinepropanesulfonic acid) 15 pH 7.0, mercaptoethanol, 2 mM magnesium acetate, 2 mM MnCl2, 0.3 bovine brain calmodulin-dependent phosphatase, calmodulin, and the test compound. The mixture is incubated at 30°C for five minutes, and the reaction is initiated by the addition of 32P-labeled peptide. Protein kinase activity may be assayed by determining the rate of 32p incorporation into chicken gizzard muscle myosin light chain using a filter paper method (Roskoski, ibid.) in a reaction mixture of 50 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 0.6 mM dithiothreitol, 0.6 mg/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA), 80 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM CaCl₂, 1.0 μ g/ml kinase, calmodulin and test compound. The reaction is initiated by the addition of Mg-[γ -32P]ATP and myosin light chain (40 μ M final at 25°C. Calmodulin concentrations concentration) typically range between 1 nM and 1 μ M.

The following examples are offered by way of illustration, not limitation.

20 Example 1

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Collodion solvent is added to pure centchroman to provide a final concentration of 100 mg centchroman per 10 ml of solvent. The solvent is a mixture of three parts by volume of diethyl ether to one part by volume of ethanol. The resulting solution is aliquotted into sterile dropper bottles. For use, the formulation is applied directly to affected skin using a dropper in an amount sufficient to cover the affected area.

30 Example 2

Soft white paraffin BP is heated to 60°C, at which point it melts. Centchroman is added directly at a concentration of 10 mg per gram of paraffin, and the mixture is thoroughly stirred. After cooling, the formulation is packaged in sterile containers. For use,

the formulation is applied by rubbing directly onto affected skin.

Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be evident that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

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I claim:

1. A method for treating dermatitis in a patient comprising administering to a patient suffering from dermatitis an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of the formula

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

15 R1, R4 and R5 are individually hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or tertiary amino lower alkoxy; and

R2 and R3 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl,

- 20 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- A method according to claim 1 wherein R1 is lower alkoxy, R2 and R3 are lower alkyl, R4 is hydrogen
 and R5 is tertiary amino lower alkoxy.
 - 3. A method according to claim 1 wherein R1 is methoxy.
- 30 4. A method according to claim 1 wherein R2 and R3 are methyl.

- 5. A method according to claim 1 wherein R4 is hydrogen.
- 5 6. A method according to claim 1 wherein R5 is

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said compound is

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8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said dermatitis is a condition selected from the group consisting of psoriasis and eczematous dermatitis.

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- 9. A method according to claim 8 wherein said condition is psoriasis.
- 10. A method according to claim 8 wherein said 25 condition is atopic dermatitis, photoeczematous

dermatitis, primary irritant dermatitis or allergic contact dermatitis.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein said
5 composition is in a form suitable for topical
administration.

12. A method for inhibiting proliferation of keratinocytes in a patient comprising administering to a 10 patient a compound of the formula

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

5 wherein:

R1, R4 and R5 are individually hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or tertiary amino lower alkoxy; and

R2 and R3 are individually hydrogen or lower

20 alkyl,

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an amount sufficient to inhibit keratinocyte proliferation.

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13. A method according to claim 12 wherein R1
is lower alkoxy, R2 and R3 are lower alkyl, R4 is hydrogen
and R5 is tertiary amino lower alkoxy.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein R1 is methoxy, R2 and R3 are methyl, R4 is hydrogen and R5 is

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15. A method according to claim 12 wherein said compound is

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16. A method according to claim 12 wherein said compound is applied topically.

17. A method for inhibiting calmodulin activity in a patient comprising administering to a patient a 20 compound of the formula

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein:

5 R1, R4 and R5 are individually hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or tertiary amino lower alkoxy; and

R2 and R3 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl,

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an amount sufficient to inhibit calmodulin activity.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein R1 15 is lower alkoxy, R2 and R3 are lower alkyl, R4 is hydrogen and R5 is tertiary amino lower alkoxy.

19. A method according to claim 17 wherein R1 is methoxy, R2 and R3 are methyl, R4 is hydrogen and R5 is

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20. A method according to claim 17 wherein said compound is

21. Use of a compound of the formula

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treament of dermatitis, wherein:

R1, R4 and R5 are individually hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or tertiary amino lower alkoxy; and

R2 and R3 are individually hydrogen or lower alkyl.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In _ational Application No PCT/US 94/02387

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A. CLASSI IPC 5	IFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER A61K31/40 A61K31/35		
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Documentat	ion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that	such documents are included in the f	ields scarched .
Electronic d	ats base consulted during the international search (name of data ba	se and, where practical, search terms	used)
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the r	rlevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
γ.	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CANCER		1-9.
	vol. 43, no. 5 , 1989		11-21
	pages 781 - 783 N.C. MISRA ET AL. 'CENTCHROMAN- / NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-CANCER AGENT I	FOR	
	ADVANCED BREAST CANCER: PHASE-II see the whole document	STUDY	
Υ	JOURNAL OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY vol. 29 , 1986		1-9, 11-21
	pages 1801 - 1803 M. SALMAN ET AL. 'STUDIES IN ANT AGENTS'	IFERTILITY	
	see the whole document		
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Continu	tion) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
ategory *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	. Relevant to claim No.		
Υ	BIOCHEMICAL PHARMACOLOGY vol. 35, no. 17 , 1986 pages 2984 - 2986 G. BARRERA ET AL. 'STRUCTURE-ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS OF CALMODULIN ANTAGONISM BY TRYPHENYLETHYLENE ANTIESTROGENS' see the whole document	1-9, 11-21		
Υ	BRITISH JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY vol. 128, no. 2 , 1993 pages 143 - 150 S. MAC NEIL ET AL. 'ANTIPROLIFERATIVE EFFECTS ON KERATINOCYTES OF A RANGE OF CLINICALLY USED DRUGS WITH CALMODULIN ANTAGONIST ACTIVITY' see the whole document	1-9, 11-21		
A	BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHARMACOLOGY vol. 49, no. 1 , 1973 pages 64 - 73 B.N. DHAWAN ET AL. 'ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AND SOME OTHER PHARMACOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF CENTCHROMAN' see the whole document	1-21		
A .	US,A,3 340 276 (R.W. CARNEY ET AL.) 5 September 1967 cited in the application see the whole document, in particular col.5 lines 20-39	1-21		
A .*.	US,A,4 447 622 (SALMAN ET AL.) 8 May 1984 cited in the application see the whole document	1-21		
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Porm PCT/ISA/ZIB (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

page 2 of 2

international	application	No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 94/ 02387

Box I	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This inte	rnational search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
ı. 🟋	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: REMARK: Although claims 1-20 are directed to a method of treatment of the
· <u>·</u>	human/animal body the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. X	Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
	The subject matter of claims 1-21 are not supported by pharmacological evidence. In the absence of pharmacological data the evaluation of the technical nature of the subject matter and of the prior art is equivocal and subjective. As a consequence it may well be that relevant prior art has not been retrieved.
3.	Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Int	ernational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
1. 🗀	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all
	searchable claims.
2	As all searchable claims could be searches without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
, ,	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report
	covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.	No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is
	restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Noz.:
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Remark	on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
	No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
Form Po	CT/ISA.210 (continuation of first sheet (1)) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT Information on patent family members

h ,ational Application No PCT/US 94/02387

date	member(s)	date
	NONE	
08-05-84	NONE	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1992)

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